The Lions' Pride

SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY • FRIDAY OCTOBER 23, 2015 • VOLUME LIV NO. 9 • SINCE 1965

Kirk Hall Standing Tall at Dedication Ceremony

By Grant Schrantz
Contributing Writer

On Oct. 15, Saint Leo University had its official opening ceremony for its new academic building, Kirk Hall. Kirk Hall is the 11th new building constructed at Saint Leo University in the past 13 years.

As the school continues to expand, it makes sure to keep its focus inwards towards its own students by creating new, state of the art learning facilities for them. With the Donald R. Tapia School of Business at its left, the school decided that they wanted something new for students outside of the business majors too. Kirk Hall was the response. It has been opened as the counterpart of the school of business, geared towards liberal arts majors.

The namesake of the building, former University President Dr. Arthur F. Kirk, Jr., was grateful for this honor bestowed on him by the school. But he was even more grateful that this new academic facility was geared towards another valuable asset of the school.

"It is a tremendous honor, but the greatest thing from my perspective is that this is a building for the students." He went on to note the striking difference between Saint Leo and other universities he had visited. "The vast majority of academic buildings at campuses throughout the country have no places for students when they're not in class or they're not in the faculty rooms. And it drove me crazy for years. I'd go through colleges and into their academic buildings and walk up the stairs and there'd be students sitting in the stairwell, and lounging on concrete steps because there was no place else for them."

The building is three stories tall, with distinct landscaping, and 21st century classrooms that have ample technological tools for learning. It seems to be popular among the students too.

"The building is really nice. It is really lively and great. It's a very interactive place," said Jonathan Shoemaker, a sophomore student worker.

"It is very modern and open to light," said Maria Gonzalez, another sophomore student.

The faculty have high hopes for the building in the coming years. Dr. William J. Lennox, Jr., our new University President, was very pleased with the advent of Kirk Hall. From what he has seen so far, he is more than impressed with it.

"The building's great. It accomplished everything that we designed it for. What I love about it is that the students feel at home here. They come, they sit down, they study, and they talk and enjoy it. And that's what it's all about."

As the President Emeritus and Dr. Lennox both hoped for, Kirk Hall certainly does seem to be a promising new place for students. The Learning Resource Center (LRC) has moved downstairs, into the large, well-lit ground floor of the building and is filled with busy students all day. It is a great, low stress place to go and knock out some homework. It is difficult not to agree with Mr. Dennis Mullen, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Saint Leo, when he said that "this building represents the greatness of its namesake."

Photo Courtesy of Twitter @SaintLeoUniv

Dr. Kirk was president of Saint Leo University for 19 years before he retired.

Photo Courtesy of Twitter @CreativeContInc

Kirk Hall was finished and opened for academic use at the beginning of the 2015 Fall semester before the official opening ceremony took place on Oct. 15th.

CHECK US OUT ONLINE!

"The Martian" Review

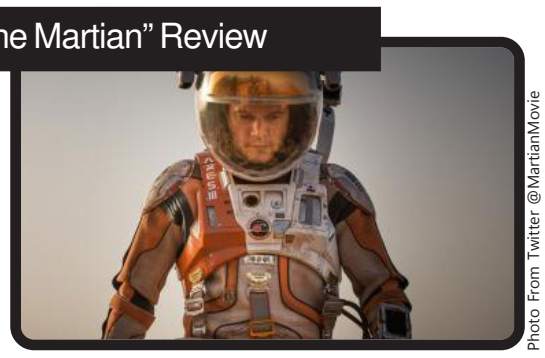


Photo From Twitter @MartianMovie

"Deez Nuts" Editorial

Photo From Twitter @kolydka

Fall Family Festival 5K

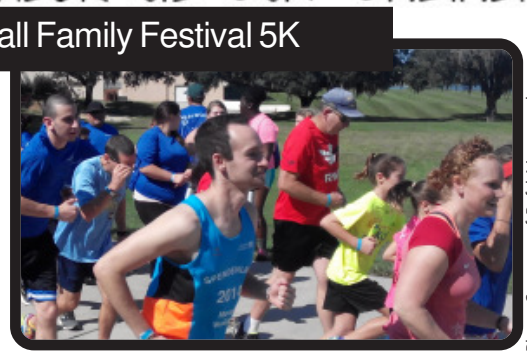


Photo Courtesy of Rafal Matuszczak

Editorial

Why People Vote for Trump

By Christine Bocchino
Contributing Writer

Watching "The Tonight Show" one evening, a familiar face appeared on the screen – an ever-present face that has been plaguing social media for the past few months ever since his announcement for presidential candidacy: Donald Trump.

In a recent interview, Jimmy Fallon asked him how he planned to build his infamous "wall" without the help of immigrant labor – the wall that will supposedly solve all the problems of illegal immigration.

"We may build it with immigrant labor, we may, but it's going to be a great wall," Trump said; "At some point maybe it's going to be called the Trump Wall."

In a quest to find answers as to why a man who has become well-known for controversial -- and quite frankly, rude – comments on hot topics and other candidates, questions were posed to one of the University's Political Science classes.

Bringing up Donald Trump's name in a class full of opinionated and politically informed students generally seems like a touchy situation, but interestingly, Trump is one of the only things that the whole class agreed on.

"He has no solution, but he just speaks his mind," one student said.

"Exactly. He says what everyone wants to say, but he has no solutions -- any solutions he makes, he makes them up on the fly," said a second student.

"If you don't have solutions, you're just complaining," another student summed up the class' argument.

Many Americans are probably wondering the same thing as that class: what makes a reality TV star and businessman think that he's qualified to be the president of the United States?

The answer is: nothing. Public opinion keeps him in the polls, and it has brought him to the top position, poised for a possible Republican nomination as the GOP frontrunner.

Trump, a businessman and reality TV star with a net worth of 4.5 billion dollars according to Forbes, has absolutely no experience in office. What distinguishes him from other candidates is, to put it blatantly, his bluntness.

People want to follow people who have a determined direction and are unwavering in their opinions – it gives them security and makes them feel protected to see a person who shows determination. Most people can relate to those who "tell it like it is" – something Trump is extremely well versed in. Fittingly most known for his signature phrase on "The Apprentice", "you're fired," Trump, a graduate of Wharton School of Business, earns his wealth from real estate and television.

"He's not a politician, and people like the frankness of his language," said Political Science professor Francis Orlando; "Because of that he's such a stark contrast to politicians."

People want a change; they're tired of the stereotypical "politician." Trump's approach to the issues in the forefront of the election is fresh and unique, and he earns respect for his aggression without regard for "political correctness." It only takes one comment for someone to think to themselves, "Maybe he's on to something."

Granted, Trump's method of stirring up the passions of the people might appeal to the politically uninformed and those who are fed up with the current system, but his high-profile has proven both beneficial and detrimental.

"He's already a media star; visibility is very important and because of that he already starts with an advantage," Orlando said; "He's visible, brash, and not a politician – because of that he's going to do good early on."

The question remains: will this be enough for him to win the presidential race?

"This brashness could backfire when you make inappropriate comments. You can only go so far before people start getting offended," said Orlando.

Trump has offended most other presidential candidates, journalists and even TV personalities. However, those who agree that Rosie O'Donnell is a "loser" most likely support a candidate like Trump. On the other hand, his uncensored dialogue is more characteristic of a Kardashian than a potential president of the United States.

Trump's personal prejudices cause him to suffer the loss of support from more liberal Republicans, but he has no problem gaining the support of right-wing conservatives, which has proven effective in the development of his campaign. Only time will tell if he wins over the rest of America, but if it doesn't work out for Trump, he's still a billionaire.

Contact Us

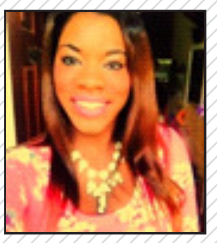
Jonah Robertson
Editor in Chief

Nicholas Santos
Managing Editor

Amber Fink
Advertising Manager

Dakota Schawlbach
Distribution Manager

Annie Hays
Layout Editor



Rikki Hussey
Staff Photographer

Erin Gaylord
Online Operations Editor

Jessica Miller
Lead Assistant

Mrs. Valerie Kasper
Advisor

Page Editors

Jonah Robertson
Editorials

Craig Graves
Worldly Education Editor

Annie Hays
Arts & Entertainment

Matt Vandenburgh
Sports

Nicole Alvarez
Campus News

Letters To The Editor

- 500 words maximum
- No profane or slanderous language
- Students: Include name and year
- Faculty: Include name and rank
- Please include a phone number to verify authorship
- We reserve the right to edit for grammar/spelling/libel or publish
- Send submissions to **thelionspridenewspaper@gmail.com**

Location

(352) 588-8316

33701 State Road 52 Saint Leo, FL 33574

Student Activites Building Rm 106

Campus News

In Rememberance: Sister M. Dorothy Neuhofer

By Nicholas Santos
Managing Editor

Saint Leo University suffered a significant loss when Sister Mary Dorothy Neuhofer, OSB, the dedicated University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian of the Saint Leo Community, passed away on Oct. 14.

Sister Dorothy was a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Florida since 1949 and was also the longest-running member of the Saint Leo Community. She achieved the prestigious and unique honor of working for the University for an outstanding 50 years on Aug. 15, nearly two months prior to her unfortunate passing.

Despite not knowing Sister Dorothy for very long, Dr. William J. Lennox, Jr., recently appointed President of Saint Leo University, was saddened by Sister Dorothy's passing. It was Dr. Lennox himself who presented Sister Dorothy with the honor of working for Saint Leo University for 50 years during Saint Leo's annual Community Day, which took place over the summer.

"I am so happy we got to honor her 50 years of serving at Saint Leo at our Community Day not long ago," said Dr. Lennox. "I didn't know Sister long and only met her a few times, but I knew she was a great woman…She worked at Saint Leo until her death."

Sister Dorothy had developed an intense interest in books from the very young age of four, an interest developed through trips to libraries with her father, a German immigrant who understood how to read in both English and German. Sister Dorothy took this interest to heart when she pursued her Bachelor's Degree in Education and her Master's Degree in Library Science prior to joining the Saint Leo Community. The culmination of these efforts translated to a milestone of a career when she began working for what was once known as Saint Leo College on Aug. 15, 1965. She was a Reference Librarian and Cataloger when she first joined.

Working tirelessly in six increasingly significant positions over the course of her 50 year career, Sister Dorothy was instrumental in the development, expansion, and even architecture of the Daniel A. Canon Memorial Library. She connected emotionally with countless students and faculty, acting as a teacher and mentor to some, a good friend to many, and a kindred spirit to all.

"We all are certainly going to miss Sister Dorothy," said Professor Carol Ann Moon, Reference and Instructional Outreach Librarian and a close friend to Sister Dorothy. "I was so fortunate to have gone on several professional development road trips with her. Sister loved to travel and learn new things. She was…an inspiration."

Sister Dorothy had an immensely positive influence on others throughout her life. Kenneth Kelly, a Graduate Assistant for the University Archives and Special Collections, originally worked for Sister Dorothy as a student assistant while he was an undergraduate. According to Kelly, who deeply mourns the loss of Sister Dorothy, it was because of Sister Dorothy that Kelly was able to earn his current position and pay for his Master's Degree.

"Sister Dorothy was truly a one of a kind individual," said Kelly. "She was a very patient person, but didn't put up with nonsense, and had a watchful eye for detail. She told me many stories about her time at Saint Leo and about influential people she'd known over the years. I never expected her to leave us like this. As much as she accomplished in her life, I think that if she'd lived longer, she would've been capable of so much more."

Photo Courtesy of Professor Carol Ann Moon

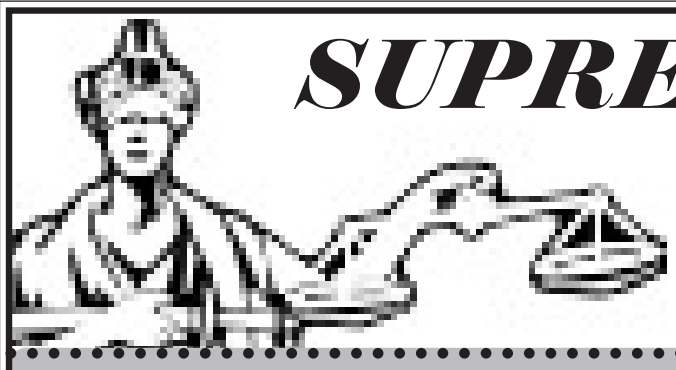
Before her passing, Sister Dorothy (right) had attended several meetings as a member of the Society of Florida Archivists. This particular photo was taken in May of 2014.

Professor Jessica Miller, Adjunct to English, also was impacted positively by Sister Dorothy.

"Sister Dorothy was a perfect example of what makes Saint Leo University notable," said Miller. "She represented the core values in everything she did, helped to mentor others, and aided the campus so that it became beautiful physically, mentally, and spiritually…I hope that the University will find some way to have future members of our community to get to know her; to know the contribution she made for the University."

Sister Dorothy was known for valuing not only the people she worked with, but also the idea of the library, more than anything. In addition to her daily tasks of cataloging information and books, assisting students, and tending to her plants, Sister Dorothy helped more people gain access to libraries, helping to push the addition of libraries to off-campus sites and military bases. She was also an active, dedicated, and loyal member of several library-related organizations, such as the Society of Florida Archivists. Sister Dorothy lived a lasting, loving, and selfless life and will be missed.

On Oct. 19, a viewing for Sister Dorothy will be held at the Holy Name Monastery from 3-5 p.m., with a wake of service following at 7 p.m. In addition, a funeral Mass honoring Sister Dorothy will take place in the Holy Name Monastery on Oct. 20 at 10:30 a.m. Please keep the Neuhofer family and the Benedictine Sisters of Florida in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.



SUPREME COURT
of the United States,
MYTH or REALITY?

New Course: CRM 300-Spring 2016-MWF 9:30 to 10:20-No text book

Ever wonder why or how something becomes law? Ever wonder how you can change the law? Come with me and explore the minds of the nine (9) Justices who have shaped our society, set social values, defined morality, ruled on immigration, declared criminal laws unconstitutional and even limited the powers of both the President and the Congress.

This Course will explore the opinions and the rational of the men and women who are responsible for the evolution of the cultural, political and Criminal Justice systems of our society.

Presented by Dr. Joseph Cillo JD

We, the Lions of Sa

Sanders vs. Clinton: The First Democratic Debate

By Cassidy Whitaker
Political Columnist

On Tuesday, Oct. 13, the five hopefuls for the democratic nomination debated one another for the very first time in the 2016 presidential race. The candidates, Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Martin O'Malley, Jim Webb, and Lincoln Chafee took to the stage at the Wynn hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. The debate was moderated by CNN's Anderson Cooper and included additional questions asked by Dana Bash, Don Lemon, and Juan Carlos Lopez also of CNN.

The frontrunners for the DNC ticket were obviously deemed Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders before the debate even took place, and the candidates proved that assertion to be correct. As for everyone else, if any previous expectations for an additional candidate to give Sanders and/ or Clinton a run for their money existed, they fell quite short.

As widely expected, the star of the first DNC debate was Hillary Clinton. The former Secretary of State undoubtedly proved and showcased why she is the top democratic contender in the 2016 election. Clinton persisted calmly and unwavering in not only her demeanor but also in her views and policies throughout the debate. She portrayed her obvious experience and expert knowledge of policy and issues facing the nation.

In terms of criticism and attacks, it was certainly not smooth sailing for her throughout the night, though. As expected, Clinton had to defend her past occurrences of flip-flopping and current lingering scandals ample times. The former Secretary of State smoothly handled these criticisms with a tactic many voters want an "outsider" [from the government] to be elected president.

Clinton also portrayed her unwavering fortitude when she came under fire from almost all of the other candidates on stage for her vote in favor of the Iraq war. She repudiated the idea of a relationship between her judgment being questioned regarding that vote and President Obama's choice of her as Secretary of State.

"I recall very well being on a debate stage, I think, about 25 times with then Senator Obama, debating this very issue. After the election, he asked me to become Secretary of State. He valued my judgment, and I spent a lot of time with him in the Situation Room, going over some very difficult issues," fought back Clinton. This was not only a fire back at her criticism from the candidates, but it was also an opportunity to plug her expert knowledge of foreign policy that she keenly took advantage of.

One thing that did come as a surprise was Clinton's subtle attacks on Bernie Sanders, her current top rival for the 2016 democratic ticket. This was slightly shocking to many as Sanders has been reluctant to attack former Secretary Clinton, so many believed that she would not opt to give him a reason to begin attacking her.

Probably the most memorable and significant attack on Sanders from Clinton that also proved to be Sanders' weakest moment of the evening was regarding his wavering stance on gun control. Clinton was asked was whether Senator Sanders is "tough enough on guns" with which she responded "No, not at all." This answer followed with Clinton strategically pointing out the fact that Sanders has voted against the Brady Bill, legislation to reduce gun violence, five different times. This proved to be a win for Clinton, as Senator Sanders was reluctant to attack her in the way that she attacked him regarding her own personal issues with flip-flopping in the past.

Clinton's strongest and most memorable talking points throughout the debate included confronting GOP attacks on Planned Parenthood [she was the only democratic candidate to do this at the debate], calling for action by the entire country to stand up to the NRA to demand stricter gun laws, combating all forms of inequality, but especially economic and racial inequality as well as discrimination against the LGBTQ community, the importance of investing in scientific research by using climate change to grow the economy by way of job creation, raising the minimum wage, creating a fairer tax system that balances out all classes of Americans, paid family leave, the creation of totally free public college education, and comprehensive immigration reform.

"Personally, I think that Hillary's strongest point is something other people continue to see as a downfall: her experience," said senior Emily Mincey. "She has done amazing political work and she truly showed how capable she is. Her weakness is that she always seems stiff, though. People compare her to her husband Bill too much because he's so personable. She is just as likable as he is, but people call her robotic, partly out of comparison and partly out if sexism."

Hillary Clinton not only took on her top competitor in the democratic race for the White House, but she also did not shy away from attacking republicans at all. This fact alone proves that she is undoubtedly the best-suited and most prepared candidate to take on whichever candidate wins the republican nomination for the presidential election.

It is understood among most that Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders did not technically "lose" the first DNC debate, but many are reluctant to declare that he "won." Sanders virtually performed exactly as he was expected to by plugging his support for combating income inequality and the issues of corruption within Wall Street [his general platform] as well as using the overwhelmingly hyped support he has received throughout his campaign as almost a form of adrenaline.

It was evident that Senator Sanders' goal for the debate was to gain support from more diverse groups of voters, with the most important being African Americans, as he has yet to convince them that they are important to him and his campaign. His most memorable attempts at this were his mentioning of criminal justice reform being a goal of his if elected president in his opening statement at the debate as well as stating that "Black lives matter" at one point during the evening. It seemed though that he was simply attempting to solely make African American voters feel like they will be a priority for him as president rather than him truly and passionately caring for their well-being and future success.

Probably the most applauded moment of the entire night came after something Senator Sanders said; however, it was a positive thing regarding his top rival Hillary Clinton. As expected, Clinton was in the midst of defending herself from criticism regarding her use of a private email server during her tenure as Secretary of State with the strategically placed assertion that Americans care more about issues facing the nation than this controversy. During this discussion,

Pre-registration *fair*

Academic Advising presents three days to enjoy

Students

Free food, refreshments and giveaways while getting the information YOU need to resolve holds and register corrrectly with the help of academic advisors.

Faculty

Keep alive our value of community by volunteering to aid students in preparing for their future while taking part in tasty breakfasts and lunches.

Times

Wednesday, October 28:
9 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. and 2 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Thursday, October 29:
9 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. and 2 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Friday, October 30:
9 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. and 2 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Saint Leo University

address campaign 2016

Picture from Twitter @Bernie Sanders

Picture from Twitter @Hillary Clinton

Sen. Bernie Sanders (left) called for action against the corruption in Wall Street. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (right) agrees that Wall Street should be better regulated, but is not calling for measures as extreme as Sanders.

Senator Sanders unexpectedly jumped in to defend former Secretary Clinton.

"Let me say something that may not be great politics, but I think the secretary is right, and that is that the American people are sick and tired of hearing about your damn emails," said Sanders.

Clinton lightheartedly and appreciatively laughed and responded with "Me too, me too."

Sanders then continued with "Enough of the emails, let's talk about the real issues facing America."

This came as a complete shock as Clinton's email server controversy is undoubtedly the easiest attack that can be made against her.

It did not seem as though Senator Sanders really attempted to convince voters that he would be able to conquer the issue of electability as a self-proclaimed "democratic socialist," as he has deemed himself, that he will undoubtedly face in this presidential election. Many Americans do not appreciate the term "socialist" and often do everything in their power to avoid it, which it why it was surprising that Sanders did not directly address the issues that he knows he will face running as one.

Senator Sanders certainly played to his exuberant supporters as well as to the ideological foundation of the Democratic Party throughout his performance at the debate, but it did not seem as though he expressed why he is electable as President of the United States.

Sanders' additional highly applauded moments of the night and the aspects of his performance that have certainly received the most praise stemmed from his portrayal of his campaign's platform: his passionate support for the fight for income equality and against the corruption on Wall Street. This is a positive thing because those plugs will most likely draw voters that are just now truly learning about Sanders and his views toward his campaign.

As expected, Sanders performed passionately and impromptu as he has on the campaign trail thus far, earning him a hefty support system of voters who wish to join the senator in creating a "political revolution," as he has named it.

The candidates that did not shine nearly as bright at the first democratic debate as Clinton and Sanders were Martin O'Malley, Jim Webb, and Lincoln Chafee.

This debate was certainly a last ditch effort for former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley to gain relevance as a candidate in the 2016 race, and he unfortunately fell quite short. His performance as a whole was not a bad one, though. He coherently discussed his platform and did not even shy away from firing at his top competitors a few times, Clinton and Sanders.

Although he pointed out several instances of his executive experience (from serving as governor of Maryland) many times, some could even say at nauseam. Many of the former governor's answers and responses began with something such as "In Maryland, we…" and concluded with the assertion that he will do the same for America if elected president. Many did not view these as positive answers and responses due to the fact that for quite some time, the state of Maryland was in turmoil during O'Malley's gubernatorial tenure.

Despite that aspect of his performance, though, he might have had a fighting chance if he was not continuing to remain at 1% in the current polls. O'Malley exited the stage that evening without any standout moments or harsh attacks on his fellow opponents, continuing to leave him in the shadows of this race.

The former governor's strongest aspect of his performance was also calling out Sanders on his shifting stance on gun control, just as Clinton did. Additionally, he made a vehement call to action for passage of firmer gun control legislation. This attack was a win for O'Malley, as it showed that he is still also a progressive alternative to the moderate Clinton, something that Sanders virtually took away from him [O'Malley] following the rise of the hype of support for the Sanders campaign.

Former Virginia senator Jim Webb had quite the lackluster night overall, but his opening statement certainly failed to start his evening off well due to the fact that he embarrassingly struggled to name all five of his daughters. Additionally, one of the main points he attempted to make in his opening statement turned out simply as a lamenting of money's overreaching influence in politics.

Webb spent more of the evening quarreling with primary moderator Anderson Cooper than he did discussing his platform, stances on various issues, and calling out his fellow competitors, as he probably should have. Much of his and Cooper's disagreements regarded him [Webb] feeling as though he did not have an adequate amount of speaking time in comparison to the other candidates, which is arguably no fault of anyone but his own.

Webb undoubtedly did not give a strong performance whatsoever, but certainly one of his weakest moments was when he was asked if undocumented immigrants should be granted access to the benefits of Obamacare. It was evident that the former senator had not previously cultivated a stance on this issue, as he paused for an uncomfortably long amount of time before giving his answer of "I wouldn't have a problem with that."

The former Senator unfortunately failed to have any standout or impressionable moments that could have gained him the relevance that he desperately needs at this point in the 2016 race for the democratic nomination. One week after the debate, Webb announce he was dropping out of the race for President.

The general consensus among most is that former senator, governor, and mayor Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island by far had the worst performance of the night. From the very beginning, he attempted to set himself apart from his fellow competitors by plugging his supposed "high ethical standards" and keenly noting that he has yet to be involved in any scandals, which was clearly primarily a dig at former Secretary Clinton.

At one point, it seemed as though he was on the brink of taking what would have been a memorable jab at Clinton regarding her email controversy, but ended up failing to make an impressionable and direct attack on her.

Chafee's weakest and certainly most awkward moment of the evening occurred after being asked how he could press Clinton on Wall Street when he himself voted for a bill repealing the Glass-Steagall Act, a monumental piece of financial regulation legislation that separated the banking and securities industries from one another. Chafee responded, "Glass-Steagall was my very first vote. I'd just arrived, my dad had died in office." This answer made it evident that Chafee was unprepared to defend that vote he had cast in the past, so he opted to play the sympathy card by mentioning the passing of his father as his excuse.

The primary negative aspect regarding Chafee as a presidential candidate is the fact that he was initially a republican, then became an independent, and is currently a democrat. This does not inspire trust or confidence in voters when choosing a candidate to vote for in a presidential election, as it seems unclear whether or not the candidate is a true pioneer in their party.

The next showcase of the democratic presidential candidates will be a forum entitled the "First in the South Candidates Forum" moderated by MSNBC's Rachel Maddow on Friday, Nov. 6 at 8 p.m.

Arts & Entertainment

Spirit Music of the Native People

By Annie Hays
Layout Editor
Arts & Entertainment Editor

12 years ago, Dock Green Silverhawk wanted to find a place for his Native Flute circle to have a barbeque. He ended up creating the annual Silverhawk Native American Flute Gathering in Withlacoochee State Park. This year, the gathering ran from Oct. 17-18 and featured Native music players and Native art, jewelry, and food vendors.

Silverhawk thought his barbeque would just be a low-key event in his backyard, but people outside of his small flute circle wanted to come. The first year there was a hurricane, the second year the food vendor did not show up.

"Every year it has just blossomed, it's just gotten bigger and bigger," said Silverhawk.

He plans the whole event by himself every year so that it's exactly how he wants it to be.

"I do this for the people. This is a gift for my friends," said Silverhawk. "I want people to be totally relaxed."

Charlie Cox has been the emcee for two years now. He has been playing the Native style flute for fourteen years. He went to a powwow once and met a man selling flutes who taught him how to play on the spot. After playing for a few weeks, he went to Silverhawk's flute circle, then a flute circle in St. Petersburg, Fla.

"I play what comes from my heart. I close my eyes and draw from what's around me," said Cox. "I listen, I feel, and that's what comes out of me."

Cox has traveled across the country to teach people how to play the Native flute. According to him, the basics can be taught in 15 minutes.

Mark McGourley has been playing the Native Flute for over 20 years, and has been performing professionally for five years. He and fellow musician Johnny Kee have played this festival for five years.

Chris Berger, who goes by her Native name Circling Eagle, is a member of the Chippewa tribe from Minnesota. She has been making drums for about five years, and has been coming to the Silverhawk Festival for several years.

"The drum is very sacred to us because it's the heartbeat of the mother," said Circling Eagle.

Besides drums, she also makes rawhide rattles and snail shell rattles. The snail rattles are made of apple snail shells from the Everglades. She puts pebbles in the shell and covers the hole with rawhide.

Charlie Baumgartner and his uncle have a business called Uncanef flutes. Baumgartner is a cabinet builder by trade, so he uses wood that would otherwise be thrown away to make flutes. He has been making flutes for almost two years.

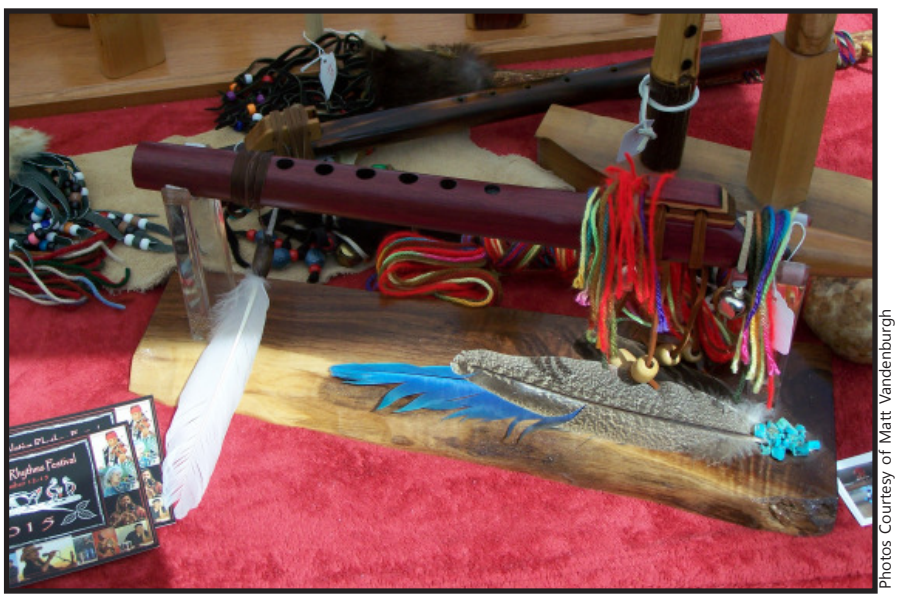
"I came to the festival last year as my debut, and a lot of the awesome flute makers helped steer me in the right direction, and I've shown a lot of improvement since then," said Baumgartner.

The Silverhawk Native American Flute Gathering always falls on the third weekend of October.

Dock Green Silverhawk was expecting 20 people for his first flute gathering 12 years ago, but when 50 people wanted to come he found Withlachoochee State Park, and has held it there ever since.

Photo By Annie Hays

The only written music Charlie Cox plays are the songs "Silent Night" and "Amazing Grace;" the rest he improvises.



Photos Courtesy of Matt Vandenburgh

(Left) George Tortorelli makes bamboo flutes in Gainsville, Fla. (Right) Charlie Baumgartner makes flutes out of an assortment of marterials such as zebrawood and pvc pipe.

Sports

April Holmes: A Testemony of Perseverance

By Samantha Corcoran
Contributing Writer

Photo By Sam Corcoran

April Holmes would like to continue traveling and speaking to inspire others after she retires this coming year after the 2016 Paralympics in Rio De Janerio.

On Jan. 23, 2001, April Holmes heard five words that would change the course of her life; those five words were: Did. You. Get. Her. Leg. This is what she heard as she was being loaded into an ambulance.

Holmes vividly recalls that time and how she lay there contemplating life and death.

"I didn't know if I was going to live, had no clue if I was going to die. All I knew was that I was underneath this platform with this train on my leg and I knew I needed some help," said Holmes.

Saint Leo University welcomed April Holmes, the NCAA inspirational athlete of the year for 2015, on Monday Oct. 12. Holmes came to talk about her story and to inspire the students of Saint Leo University to pursue their dreams and work hard.

Holmes speech brought in several groups of athletes on campus. She took a group photo with the cross country team and recognized the female soccer team.

In 2001 Holmes was boarding a train in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to head to New York City with her boyfriend at this time. As she was boarding the train, being the last to board, the train operator began to depart without closing the doors, and Holmes tripped and tumbled beneath the train platform where the train then rolled onto her leg where it sat for 17 minutes.

At this point she thought of all the good things she had done in her life and how she wasn't ready to go. She thought of things that maybe she should have done differently. The snow on the track reminded her of her childhood and the snowball fights she would have with her sisters and friends. It brought all the good times she had to the forefront of her mind. She also thought about every church song or upbeat song she could.

"As I was laying there, I kept thinking to myself how much I love music. Music, no matter what kind of music you listen to, it always has a beat. I kept thinking to myself that if I continued to get my heart to beat on the beat of different music and different songs then of course I'd be alive by the time they rescued me from this train," said Holmes.

In describing her accident, Holmes stated that her rescuers were attempting to lift the train up as if to jack the train up like a vehicle. Holmes suggested to start up the train and simply back it off of her leg. The paramedic in turn passed on this piece of advice and Holmes was finally freed from under the train.

Holmes held onto the idea that at 27 years old, she was too young to die. She had so much more that she wanted and needed to do.

To this day, Holmes recalls being in surgery and hearing a man say that he's going to take her to see her family. At this time she didn't know if this man was taking her to see her grandparents in heaven or her mother here on Earth. She knew that if she saw her mother's face that she was alive.

Shortly after hearing those words, Holmes awoke to see her mother in her hospital room.

"I'm blessed to still be alive. It just wasn't my time to go," said Holmes.

She later awoke in the hospital to find her leg had been amputated.

"People at church would always say, you know God doesn't give you any more than he knows you can handle and so I sat there so many times like God you really must think I'm a strong person man because I don't know why you chose me to take this path in life," said Holmes.

Holmes began running track at a young age. Her mother had originally placed her in different extracurricular activities ranging from ballet to piano lessons – which she did not enjoy. At this point she realized her competitive nature and her love for athletics.

"So I began running track when I was about five years old and I just loved it. Being outside, being around new people, being able to travel all the time and meet new people, and just that's when I probably recognized that I was a more competitive person," said Holmes.

Cont. on Page 8

Sports

April Holmes: A Testemony of Perseverance

While Holmes has many things and people that have influenced her throughout life, she believes that her mother and God have played the largest roles in her success and achievement.

"They've been there since day one, they've taught me so many things about life. They've given me hope. They taught me faith. They've just been like a shield around me," said Holmes.

Holmes ran track through all four of her undergraduate years at Norfolk State University where she obtained her bachelor's degree in communication and media studies. She then went to work until she decided she did not enjoy what she was doing. April decided to go back to school for her masters at this time and enrolled at the University of Phoenix where she received her MBA in marketing.

About two weeks after Holmes' accident her doctor had brought her magazines about the Paralympics. At that time she thought he was crazy. Later while flipping through the magazines with her sister she came to realize a new dream for herself.

"The more and more I flipped through the pages I just kept dreaming. Just dreams started forming in my head and I could just feel like my blood start to boil. Like I need a leg, I need to get out of this bed," said Holmes.

April Holmes defined three goals for herself that day; to represent the United States at the next Paralympic games, to become the fastest amputee in the world and to win a gold medal.

Holmes had a coach who was close to her and had helped her learn to run when she was a child. She decided after the accident to go back to him to teach her how to run again.

To learn to run without a leg is like learning to run for the first time. Since he taught her to run the first time she felt that he could teach her to become great again.

Holmes spoke of obstacles that she faced after the accident. One main obstacle she faced was self-identity.

"You're born able-bodied and you have all your limbs and you're healthy, especially being an active athlete, sometimes you just take that for granted," said Holmes in questioning her self-worth.

Holmes goes on to say that over time you face many obstacles with things such as health issues and dealing with her prosthetic leg. She continues with the issue of being a woman. Buying shoes that she can wear. She said that it was probably one of the hardest things about being an amputee.

When first arriving in rehabilitation, Holmes was driven and determined. She did not want to appear old and weak. She certainly did not want to walk with a cane or a walker. She believed that she was simply too young for that and that they were for older people.

Each time the doctor would try to have her walk with something to assist her she would walk forward without it. Every time the doctor asked why Holmes would honestly reply.

"I am too young. Too cute. And too sexy," said Holmes.

Photo From Twitter @AprilHolmes

April Holmes persevered through her disability and brought home a gold medal for Paralympics in 2008.

Determination and pride drove Holmes quickly towards her goals.

Michael Jordan himself has said, "She is a tremendous athlete, but more importantly, she is an incredible person. She has overcome so much, and remains one of the most positive people I have ever met. April's strength of character and the motivation she provides to others are truly an inspiration.

Famous for many reasons, Michael Jordan, is Holmes favorite athlete. She is inspired by Michael Jordan and how he has made been an inspiration to people all over the world, young and old.

"He has taken his love, his gift, his talent to a whole other level to the point where he had kids all over the world, even adults all over the world believing that they could fly," said Holmes.

Holmes is the first female athlete to be sponsored by the Jordan brand and is proud to say so.

Just two years after Holmes lost her leg she broke three world records in the heats at the Athens Paralympics since then, she has been virtually unbeatable. At age 35 she aimed to win a Paralympic gold medal it appeared that she was on track to win until her legs crossed and she took a hard spill. Later that day Holmes lined up for the 100 meter T44 final race in lane 6, initially the race was too close to call but after review it is determined that Holmes has won the gold medal.

"It's great to be fast it's great to be the best but all things that go up they must come back down, I don't want everything I am to be tied into the fact that I'm the fastest person in the world because there will come a time that I won't be," said Holmes.

"I just so wanted to be the best person I can be," said Holmes.

"People are so afraid that they may fall. People are so afraid that, you know, they won't necessarily fit in to all athletes, to all persons with a disability, I just implore them to at least try," said Holmes.

"Whatever goal you set for yourself, that should be your Paralympic game," said Holmes.

Holmes then instructed the attendees to follow her example; every morning while brushing your teeth, give yourself a two minute pep talk. She went on to explain that if an individual starts their day off positively and hears something negative one is more likely to stay positive and not be affected by it.

"One of the things that, promises I made to God a few years ago was that if he gave me a gold medal I would take it everywhere and I'd let people see it, hold it, touch it," said Holmes.

"I don't see myself as disabled, I see myself as an athlete," said Holmes.

Holmes motto for her program which addresses overcoming obstacles and achieving greatness is, "Stop Limping Thru Life and Start Running!"

Holmes has several different leg attachments for her various activities. She has a leg for golf, weight lifting, sprinting, walking and jogging. These different legs help her to adjust to her life as an amputee.

Throughout her career in the Paralympics Holmes has won three medals. She will be retiring after the 2016 Paralympic games in Rio De Janerio. She will be missed on the track but will continue to travel and speak to inspire students all over. Before departing Holmes autographed pictures of herself and took pictures with those that attended the event.

On the subject of disabled athletes and all disabled persons in general, Holmes voiced her opinion and said that she believes that things have drastically changed for those who are disabled. The internet has become a large component in accessibility for disabled persons. Technology overall has aided in bettering the lives of the disabled.

"The more and more disabilities begin to affect our families, the more it comes closer to home the more and more people begin to think about it," said Holmes.

April Holmes' family began to notice those with disabilities after her accident. They would speak to these people and in fact ask them if they knew April.

Holmes laughed and went on to say, "we all don't know each other."

According to April Holmes on NCAA.org, Holmes said "I used to pray for the opportunity to have a career that allowed me to travel and meet new people. I didn't specify that I needed all ten of my toes to do it."

At age 42, Holmes has decided after retiring she will continue to travel and speak publicly about her accident to inspire others.

Scores This Week

M Soccer

10/15: W 5-0 Vs Christian Bros. (@ Columbus, Ga.)

10/17: W 2-0 @ Embry-Riddle

W Soccer

10/13: W 3-0 Vs. Webber Int'l

10/17: L 2-1 Vs. Embry-Riddle

M Golf

10/12: 1st of 18 teams
Guy Harvey Shark Invitational
Rounds 1 & 2

10/12: 1st of 18 teams
Guy Harvey Shark Invitational
Final

W Golf

10/19: 1st of 16 teams Round 1-
Saint Leo Invitational

10/20: 2nd of 16 teams Round 2-
Saint Leo Invitational

M Swimming

10/16: W 150-112 @ Florida Tech

W Swimming

10/16: W 159-98 @ Florida Tech
(Double-dual meet)

10/16: W 145-114 Vs. Lyn
(@ Melbourne, Fla)
(Double-dual meet)

W Volleyball

10/16: W 3-3 Vs Union (Tenn.)
(@ Carrollton, Ga.)

10/17: W 3-0 Vs. North Ala.
(@ Carrolton, Ga.)

10/17: W 3-1 Vs. Shorter
(@ Carrolton, Ga.)